

Minutes of UFOP Meeting of September 18, 2019

The meeting was opened at 7 p.m. by Bill Biesele, our President, welcoming the 13 attendees of which one was a first-time guest. Although this meeting had been set aside to vote for new officers, this had to be postponed to our October meeting as there were not enough members to fill the quorum for voting at this time.

As Bill was one of the officers to stand down, he proceeded on a personal note, thanking all the people who had served with him as officers during his five years as President of UFOP's SW Chapter: Mike Santella, Annie Sherwood, Joanna Overkamp, Jaleesa Spor, Alan Rabinoff, and Elisabeth Nipperus, and of course Andrew, our advisor. All these people (except Andrew) had expressed the wish to not making themselves available for reelection. Fortunately, Andrew's wife, Lynn White, offered to serve as Treasurer, and Fred Overkamp did the same for Vice President. Jenniffer Bennet was all set to take over from Elisabeth Nipperus as Secretary, but had to withdraw due to health reasons, so Elisabeth is back on an interim basis. We still have openings for President, Secretary, and Historian. If nobody comes forward to fill the position of President, this chapter will no longer be allowed to operate according to its bylaws.

Bill explained that Diana, SGDS' director, Jaleesa and Andrew were absent because they were attending the Utah Museum Association conference, and that Alan Rabinoff, our Treasurer, was on a delayed trip to the Northwest. But before he left he did report that our ending balance of the month of August 2019 was \$2,007.

The host of next year's Annual Meeting had been changed from our Chapter to the Uintah Chapter headed by Dale Grey, who now was able to do so thanks to 10 new memberships instead of going solo. Vernal will be the place to go!

The Board voted in its last meeting to:

- a) Donate \$500 to SGDS as seed money for an air filtration system
- b) Authorize Andrew to spend money for gas and lodging for at least one speaker this season.

Later there was some discussion about the different kinds of filtration systems available on the market when Dale was talking about the system they had acquired in Vernal.

Bill then introduced Dale Grey formally. He has been President of the State UFOP organization three times before his current term. Dale started the Uintah Basin Chapter of UFOP in 1989 and is a volunteer at the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum. His first paleo excavation was for the Dinosaur National Monument working on an Apatosaurus. He has been a passionate volunteer all his life, which became very clear during his talk when he emphasized that volunteers in any organization need to help each other out, including their officers. One of the ways was to make possible non-professional input during meetings coming from non-scientific people who tell about e.g. what they found while seeking fossils.

Certification should be the ultimate goal of UFOP allowing trained volunteers to work for researchers who don't have (enough) helpers. That way more researchers would be encouraged to do excavations.

Dale showed us a video on volunteers setting out to protect some fossils that had been found in a remote area from the weather, an arduous and sometimes dangerous task.

Bill thanked Dale and said he was looking forward to visiting Vernal next Spring.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by interim Secretary Elisabeth Nipperus

October 2, 2019